

Minutes for Asha Chennai on 11th Jan 2026

Asha Chennai Chapter

Minutes of The Meeting held on Sunday, 11th January 2026

Following were present

Anuradha (By invitation)

Arjun Shankar (By Invitation)

Kalyan

Kasturi

Komalavalli

Murali

Paripoornam

Pushpaleela (New)

Rajaraman

Sriram

Shiva

Sundaram

Usha Bhaskar

0. Ratification of minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2025 and Ratification of poll for grant loan to a staff member in Cauvery Project held on 21 December 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2025 and the poll held in connection with the proposal for the grant of a loan to a staff member in Cauvery Project were duly ratified,

1. Staff loans and changes

Loans were sanctioned as proposed in respect of one teacher from Poorna Vidya, two from Sangamam and one from Thulasi. Amount Rs 60,000 with the stipulation that in case any existing loan remained out standing the amount will be restricted to ensure that total loan outstanding did not exceed Rs 60,000 Other conditions would apply

2. Sharing the Asha Chennai presentation given in AIC 2025. (30 mins.)

Komalavalli and Rajaram presented an overview of Asha Chennai activities, programmes and projects as presented during Asha India Conference held on 26th December in Tiruvallur Office. Rajaram particularly dwelt on the headwinds being encountered in continuing and expanding our successful CS education initiatives.

He explained how we might have to tailor our SPRINT and Explore programmes as Amazon was pivoting from CS to AI.

The next big challenge was from the SPARK programme being rapidly rolled out by the Tamilnadu Government. This would impact our ACE programme and RTC Courses. It must be said to the credit of Asha Chennai that government teachers who had an exposure to both ACE and SPARK did express their opinion in favour of the former as the curriculum was wholesome and pedagogy included children executing CS Projects. It was gratifying to note that wherever ACE was carried out the Government teachers who got trained were very happy with the content and particularly its emphasis on project execution. Considerable time was spent on discussing how we might impress the Government on the merits of our programme. Possibility of Asha Chennai adopting a whole district to demonstrate the relative efficacy could be explored by talking to the concerned authorities.

Our cooperation with [Code.org](#) was going well as of now with invitations to their international conferences in Japan and Mexico which were attended by Rajaraman and Venkat. However the challenge here was an unclear roadmap of our mutual cooperation.

3. Fund position now and Fund raising Expectations for 2026 and efforts to be put in.

Rajaram spelt out his expectations of funding from Amazon While the CS trainers will continue to be entirely covered by Amazon, only a much smaller fraction of our SPRINT computer teachers will be covered by Amazon. While fund flow from Amazon might not adversely affect our activities in 26-27 taking into account the balance carried forward from the previous year, we need to plan for raising funds from more sources to address the gap left in Amazon's funding.

4. A Quick Recap of events since last meeting (and their budget approval).

- Right start CS training

The training was held in Tiruvallur from 16 to 18th December 2025. 133 Teachers from all projects both in TN and UP participated. In addition to expositions by our application software personnel on updated Kannini App and asynchronous physical computing there were MESL programmes and related fun filled unplugged activities.

One of the highlights of the session was "Vision for AI in Schools" by Prof Karthik Raman of IIT Madras, the Chairman of the drafting committee for CBSE for the new AI and Computational Thinking curriculum. It was well received by the teachers. They got their doubts clarified about AI. Prof Raman threw light on the future of AI in education and how AI will be adapted into school curriculum.

At the end Innovation awards 2025 were presented to exemplary work done by our Asha personnel

Budget expenditure of Rs 4,80,000 for conducting the above programme was unanimously approved. Note that these are apportioned to different projects and the amount that cannot be apportioned to any existing budget will be covered from our general funds.

- Asha India Conference

Asha India Conference was held in our Tiruvallur office from 26 December to 28th December 2025. Delegates from Assam, Kanpur, Kathi, Mumbai attended. Presentations were made on the activities by the various chapters including ours. Discussions were also held on procedures and systems in accounting, auditing, timely reporting etc. The cultural program organised by the children (and community) from the Vasantham Nagar Irular hamlet touched everyone and we were filled with gratitude for their doing this out of their own interest to thank Asha for everything we have done for them in the past.

On the last day of the conference delegates were taken to an island off of the Pulicat Lake. The boat ride to the island and spending the time at the beach with picnic lunch was the highlight of the trip for many.

Budget expenditure of Rs 1,55,000 for conducting AIC was unanimously approved

5. Follow up from Rightstart CS Training

- Developing AI framework and training Asha Teachers

Asha Chennai has embarked on developing an AI Framework and curriculum for training Asha teachers. In particular we are developing a set of AI literacy activities to implement as part of the Explore program and a proper course on AI extending beyond literacy to create solutions using AI for the RTCs.

I- Spreading Asha Chennai curriculum to other orgs - Asha Mumbai, ASV Nagepore, Paramarth etc.

Requests have been received to seed computer education in Asha Mumbai, ASV Nagapore by deputing our CS Trainers to these institutions were accepted and would be followed up in due course.

6. Follow up actions based on insights gained during Asha India Conference (and their approval)

- Setting up Project at Beed

It was recalled that Jeevan Rathod from Beed a backward District in Maharashtra had requested, during the AIC, for help in computer education. It was decided to set up a new project in Beed. Komalavalli was requested to follow up with Jeevan Rathod.

- Computers for Asha chapters.

During the AIC an offer was made to other chapters to provide them laptops if we are able to obtain laptops without condition from Amazon.

- Resuming Arogyam in Vasantham Nagar and Anna Nagar in Sangamam

During the Asha India Conference delegates visited Vasantham Nagar and they were struck by malnutrition and poverty among children. It might be recalled that Asha Chennai had started Project Arogyam during Covid. However, it was stopped last year since dedicated teachers living close by were mostly unavailable. However after the visit mentioned above it was felt imperative to resume our nutrition programme in Vasantham Nagar and Anna Nagar.

The proposal to resume nutrition programme under Project Arogyam was unanimously approved with a budget of Rs 4.1 Lakhs for the calendar year 2026.

7. Allocation plan of 500 Laptops from Amazon

Since we have another 500 laptops donated by Amazon project stewards, Coordinators and lead teachers would be requested to work out their requirements for a rational allocation. Some of these will be allocated to other organizations and other Asha chapters after getting the required permissions from Amazon.

8. Interaction with TN Govt

- NSNOP

Murali stated that till 2027 Asha Chennai has the necessary permission to work with Tamilnadu Government Schools in the districts where it is operating.

He, however, cautioned regarding toilet construction merely based on the request from school administration, since NSNOP had laid down conditions and standards.

- ADWH

Asha Chennai has qualified as a vendor. However since elections are due the files are likely to move only after the elections are over.

- SPARK

Tamilnadu Government was going ahead in spreading the reach of this programme. Contracts had been awarded to ILP based in Bangalore for hiring requisite staff on contract basis. Possible cooperation or collaboration with TN government in implementing Asha Chennai's ACE curriculum and pedagogy would be continued to be explored as mentioned against agenda item 2 above.

9. Schedule of events till end of academic year.

The following calendar of events till April were rolled out.

RTC Impressions - 14th Feb

RTC Certificate Distribution - 21st and 28th Feb

RTC Excursion - 7th Mar

TIS next batch - 13th to 15th March

ACE Assessment (Digital) - End of Jan

ACE Assessment (Programming) - Mid Feb

ACE Impressions - April First Week

Sprint Written Assessment (TN and UP) - Week of Feb 9th

Sprint CS Assessment (TN) - Mar first week

Sprint CS Assessment (UP) - Mar second week

Asha Impressions - After 3rd term exams (end of April ?)

10. Scholarship (Kalyan)

Kalyan briefly raised a few exceptional cases in connection with scholarship awards, however after a brief discussion, he agreed that these could be sorted out in the Scholarship Focus Group. He mentioned that the second instalment for 25-26 would be disbursed on 31st instant.